In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An aluminum alloy containing at least 0.0001 mass % and not more than [[~~0.03~~]] 0.01 mass % of copper, at least 0.0005 mass % and not more than [[~~0.2~~]] 0.1 mass % of silicon, at least [[~~0.5~~]] 1.0 mass % and not more than [[~~4~~]] 3.0 mass % of manganese and at least [[~~0.5~~]] 0.7 mass % and not more than [[~~3~~]] 1.2 mass % of iron, ~~with the rest~~ and a remainder containing aluminum and unavoidable impurities, and excluding zinc except for an unavoidable amount of zinc that may be included in said unavoidable impurities.

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Claim **2** (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The aluminum alloy according to claim 1, further containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of at least 0.01 mass % and not more than 0.5 mass % of chromium, at least 0.01 mass % and not more than 0.5 mass % of titanium and at least 0.01 mass % and not more than 0.5 mass % of zirconium.

4. (previously presented) An aluminum alloy foil consisting of the aluminum alloy according to claim 1, and having a thickness, elongation and yield strength so selected that the relation between the yield strength YS (N/mm^2) and the thickness X (μm) satisfies an inequality $YS > 28.7 \ln(X) - 30$ and the relation between the

elongation El (%) and the thickness X (μm) satisfies an inequality El > 0.15X + 3.5.

5. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method of preparing the aluminum alloy foil according to claim 4, comprising steps of:

heating up an ingot of [[~~an~~]] said aluminum alloy to a temperature of at least 350°C and not more than 580°C;

hot-rolling said ingot of said aluminum alloy at a starting temperature of at least 350°C and not more than 530°C after the heating up thereby obtaining a plate material;

cold-rolling said plate material after the hot rolling; and

softening said plate material after the cold rolling.

6. (withdrawn) The method of preparing the aluminum alloy foil according to claim 5, further comprising

a step of retaining said ingot of said aluminum alloy at a temperature of at least 350°C and not more than 580°C for not more than 15 hours after said step of heating up said ingot, and

carrying out said step of hot-rolling said ingot for obtaining said plate material after said holding step.

7. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of preparing the aluminum alloy foil according to claim 5, comprising carrying out said step of hot-rolling said ingot for

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obtaining said plate material immediately after said step of heating up said ingot.

8. (withdrawn) The method of preparing the aluminum alloy foil according to claim 5, wherein said step of softening said plate material includes an operation of retaining said plate material at a temperature of at least 270°C and not more than 380°C for at least one hour and not more than 20 hours.

9. (currently amended) An aluminum alloy foil consisting of an aluminum alloy containing at least 0.0001 mass % and not more than 0.01 mass % of copper, at least 0.0005 mass % and not more than 0.1 mass % of silicon, at least 1.0 mass % and not more than 3.0 mass % of manganese and at least 0.7 mass % and not more than 1.2 mass % of iron, and a remainder ~~with the rest~~ containing aluminum and unavoidable impurities, and excluding zinc except for an unavoidable amount of zinc that may be included in said unavoidable impurities, and having a thickness, elongation and yield strength so selected that the relation between the yield strength YS (N/mm^2) and the thickness X (μm) satisfies an inequality $YS > 28.7 \ln(X) - 30$ and the relation between the elongation El (%) and the thickness X (μm) satisfies an inequality $El > 0.15X + 3.5$.

10. (original) A container consisting of the aluminum alloy foil according to claim 9 and having a thickness of at least 50 μm and not more than 200 μm.

11. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 1, containing more than 1.0 mass % of said manganese.

12. (new) An article of manufacture,

said article of manufacture consisting of the aluminum alloy according to claim 1, and

said article of manufacture being an article selected from the group consisting of a container, a food wrapping foil material, a domestic article, and a decorative article.

13. (new) An aluminum alloy consisting of:

0.0001 to 0.01 mass % of copper;

0.0005 to 0.1 mass % of silicon;

1.0 to 3.0 mass % of manganese;

0.7 to 1.2 mass % of iron;

0.0 to 0.5 mass % of each of at least one additional element selected from a group consisting of chromium, titanium and zirconium; and

a remainder consisting of aluminum and unavoidable trace amounts of unavoidable impurities.

14. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 13, including at least 0.01 mass % of each of at least one said additional element selected from said group.

15. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 13, including not more than an unavoidable trace amount of each said additional element selected from said group.

16. (new) An aluminum alloy foil consisting of the aluminum alloy according to claim 13, and having a thickness, elongation and yield strength so selected that the relation between the yield strength YS (N/mm^2) and the thickness X (μm) satisfies an inequality $YS > 28.7 \ln(X) - 30$ and the relation between the elongation El (%) and the thickness X (μm) satisfies an inequality $El > 0.15X + 3.5$.

17. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 13, containing more than 1.0 mass % of said manganese.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]